

BARRINGTON RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

March 24, 2005

Special Meeting (non-scheduled) of the Barrington Recreation Commission called to order by Chairman Dave Whitten at 6:37 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Mark Daigneau and Pat Newhall

Commissioners Absent: Bob Selfe (Previous Commitment) and Rick Cecchetti (Family Obligation)

Staff Present: Director Mira Frase and Assistant Director Nani O'Keefe.

Public: None

MINUTES: March 9th minutes were approved and signed.

REVOLVING FUND: \$46,998.13.

PAYABLES: Approved and signed. Total: \$1,626.80

PUBLIC: Librarian Amy Inglis sent a letter outlining the programs being offered through the library and for the summer camp as well as the BPL support of the Playground and any other plans being drawn up for use of the field. See attached.

OLD BUSINESS:

Transfer of Annex and Land: Town Administrator Carol Reilly is working on this and it must be acceptable to her before further discussing GSS facility use can take place.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **GSS EXTENSION:** GSS is asking for an additional 1 and possibly 2 year extension on their lease of the old middle school and Town gym. As noted above, NOTHING will be discussed until after the land transfer is complete).
Suggested upcoming discussions on subject:
 1. Security deposit
 2. Gym/field maintenance fee
 3. Scheduling availability for field
 4. Contract drawn up between School District and Recreation Department as well.
 5. The town lawyer will be present or consulted at or about any discussions.
- **FIELD & PLAYGROUND PLANS:** Plans for building the playground and pavilions are moving forward. Possible plans for the field are to remove trees from behind the gym and put in a recreation field and a garden area. An informal presentation of the playground and field concept will be made to the selectmen on Monday (3/28/05) night at the Selectmen's meeting.
- **FACILITY REPARATIONS:** Date: Saturday April 16, 2005
 1. Approximate cost: Gym: \$750 Office: \$500
 2. Priming and Painting
 3. Plywood and chair rail along office side of the gym
 4. Hang wall mats – 20 feet on each side
 5. Building workspace in office
- **GAME TABLES:** Mira will call L&M Vending Co. in Manchester about a coin operated Air Hockey table in addition to other gaming pieces. There is a concern about moving heavy tables onto the gym floor. The Director informed them that the game tables would only be for the duration of the summer camp. Suggestions of a storage area on one side of the bleachers to be built to secure the game tables when staff is not present. Storage of table will be in the alcove outside of the office. All equipment must be checked out and table will not be available for play without staff present.
- **INDOOR PLAYGROUND:** Now that the recreation department has a viable preschool program the director would like to expand the rumpus room to include an indoor mobile playground that would include larger climbing structures for the older (4 & 5 year olds) children. Commissioner Daigneau would like to see quotes and dimensions of the structures. Chairman Whitten suggested building a large enough storage structure (previously discussed in Game Tables) to store indoor playground equipment.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **SUMMER CAMP:** Post cards were mailed out 3/23 for second Summer Camp Registration taking place on Saturday 3/26
Currently registered: 94 resident; 7 non-residents; 7 Preschoolers
- **PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING:** An additional program for 3 yr-olds will be added this fall to the preschool program in addition to the 4&5 yr-olds program and the Good Time Gang program. Currently there are 25 toddler/preschoolers enrolled in the Discovery Center. There is now a waiting list being generated for the Good Time Gang. The Director and Assistant Director have high praise for Beth Watson, the current Discovery Center Director and would like to see her somehow go full time. We anticipate an enrollment of 50 children in the fall which would generate enough revenue to pay her full time without benefits. We would like to see another line

item put in the operating budget for her benefits. Commissioner Daigneau suggested making up a list of all preschool programs including soccer/basketball/rumpus room and Discovery Center for justification of the line item.

- **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR POSITION:** Position was posted in house on the bulletin board at the town hall on March 10th. One person applied – Cynthia O'Keefe, current interim Assistant Director. In the interest avoiding any impropriety due to the current Board of Selectmen (i.e. Selectman Morrison) The position will now go to public posting on Town website for an additional two weeks.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT:

Chairman Whitten: Nothing to report

Commissioner Daigneau: He is checking out Lee Neck Rd. gravel pit for possible recreation use.

Commissioner Cecchetti: Absent

Commissioner Selfe: Absent

Commissioner Newhall: Reported on SOG. There will be a rally on April 1, 2005 at the Lee traffic circle from 4-6pm.

NON PUBLIC: Commissioner Daigneau moved to go into Non-Public session at 8:21; Chairman Whitten seconded the motion, all in favor.

Personnel issues discussed.

Non Public session ended 8:30pm

BUSINESS DEFERRED:

Indoor Playground - more information being gathered

Games Table – L& M Vending being contacted for probability and pricing.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday - April 14, 2005 – 6:30pm

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Chairman Whitten made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Newhall seconded the motion – all in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Patricia Newhall

Secretary, Barrington Recreation Commission

Attachment – Letter from Amy Inglis, BPL

3/24/05

Hi Mira & Rec. Commission:

I will not be able to attend the meeting on Thursday due to a book group which I run that evening from 6-7:30PM but I wanted to let you all know where we stand at this point with the land transfer and the summer camp.

First, anything that will attract more people to our doors is a good thing! We welcome the addition of a park that will attract young families, any seating/picnic/pavilion/stage area that would be constructed in the field as well. We feel it will increase our usage and bring people into the library that may not usually visit. We have already seen a steep increase in use on Saturdays and evenings when the rec. dept. has other programs and we often see new families from this proximity to your events. We are excited to have more activity around us.

Second, the summer camp being right near us will be wonderful. We can work with the staff to promote reading and library use. Our hope is to do the following in conjunction with the summer camp:

- 1) Read aloud story times once a week for grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8 like we did last year, except, we would love to have the kids brought over to the library by their counselors so we can do this in the children's room. This will allow us a quiet environment to read and we can show the kids our resources/allow them to check out materials.
- 2) Come to your first day of camp and hand out library card registration forms and sign kids up for the library summer reading program (if they want to participate). We have lots of prizes, programs, and incentives for the kids. Our theme this year is "Camp Wanna Read". It will focus around camping, the outdoors, summer camp stories, and nature. What a fit!
- 3) Invite the whole summer camp to attend our mid-summer show to be held in the gym on July 28th at 1PM. Alex the Jester, a funny act that brings theater to the kids. He will also do a workshop on "how to be a jester" for 25 kids at 2:30PM in the library. We will hold at least half of the spaces for this workshop for summer camp kids ages 11 & up.
- 4) The counselors may swing by any time with small groups of kids (under 10) anytime during the day to sit and read, look at a magazine, go online, or check out materials if the kids have cards. Counselors will be responsible for the behavior of the campers they bring over. There should be a safe place where library materials can be kept if checked out by campers.

We look at this as an opportunity to reach out into the community and look forward to working with your staff. We do request the following as we work together:

- 1) Punctuality: If we schedule a group to be in the library for story time or for an event, they should be here on time. We sometimes have other events for pre-schoolers scheduled as well and need to have one group done before another group arrives as space is cramped.
- 2) Communication: If someone can't make a scheduled activity, please let us know ASAP. We also would love to know the camp schedule so we can be prepared for rushes of parents at pick up times, etc.
- 3) Parking: Please let parents know that the spaces directly in front of the library must be kept open for people using the library. When picking up kids at the end of the day, we are open until 6-7PM and need those spaces.
- 4) Care in Crossing the Parking Lot: We have lots of traffic in and out of the lot and don't want to see anyone hurt. Campers should not "hang out" in the lot area and should take great care when crossing to the gym. Also, please be courteous to all patrons of the library entering the building. Could the path behind the library be used rather than the parking area for travel between the buildings? This would keep kids and traffic apart for safety sake.
- 5) Water Fountain and Bathroom Use: If campers wish to use these, they need to be aware that they must be quiet when entering the building and no running is allowed. Other water/bathroom facilities should be used first as library patrons need access to bathrooms and should not have to wait in long lines.

These issues have all come up when other sports events have taken place and we just want to clarify our needs. We want to work with campers as much as possible but also need to make sure the library can function smoothly.

Amy Inglis
Barrington Public Library, Director
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